

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100230103-9

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CLASSIFICATION

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CIA/OEI /WHIZWH 740426

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

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SOURCE REF:

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

SENSITIVE

ITEM NO: WH-4

DATE: 26 APRIL 1974

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT OF SOMALI INTENTIONS

REF : MOGADISCIO 594, 260841Z APR 74, SECRET; MOGADISCIO 564,

221050Z APR 74, SECRET EXDIS

THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOMALIA, AYALEW A. HANDEMO, DOES NOT SHARE HIS GOVERNMENT'S ALARM ABOUT SOMALI MILITARY INTENTIONS. AYALEW, AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER WHO IS CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SOMALI STRATEGIC INTENTIONS, TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 25 THAT SOMALI FORCES ALONG THE BORDER HAD NOT BEEN ACTING IN A PROVOCATIVE FASHION AND WERE NOT ON HEIGHTENED ALERT. HE SAID THE SOMALIS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE FOMENTING GUERRILLA ACTIVITY WITHIN ETHIOPIA.

AYALEW STATED FURTHER THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC) WHO FAVORED A MORE AGGRESSIVE POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA, THEY WERE BY NO

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MEANS IN THE MAJORITY AND HE DID NOT FEEL THEIR NUMBERS OR INFLUENCE HAD INCREASED IN RECENT WEEKS. AYALEW BELIEVES THE CHANCES ARE AGAINST A SOMALI ATTACK AS LONG AS THERE IS A REASONABLY EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY STRUCTURE WITHIN ETHIOPIA.

THE FORMER ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US, WHO NOW HOLDS AN ADVISORY POSITION IN THE ENDALKACHEW GOVERNMENT, TOLD US OFFICIALS EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD "IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE" THAT SOMALIA HAD DECIDED TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA. FACTIONS WITHIN THE SRC, HE SAID, DIFFERED ONLY ON THE TIMING OF THE ATTACK. PRIME MINISTER ENDALKACHEW RECENTLY TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA THAT SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF AN ATTACK WAS GROWING WITHIN THE SRC AND THAT SOMALIA HAD INCREASED ITS PROVOCATIONS ALONG THE BORDER. E-2 IMPDET.H

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